

*Chrons***ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET****SUBJECT:** (Optional)**FROM**Director, Foreign Broadcast  
Information Service**EXTENSION****NO.**

FBIS-0228/86

**DATE**

27 June 1986

**TO:** (Officer designation, room number, and building)**DATE****OFFICER'S  
INITIALS****COMMENTS** (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)**RECEIVED****FORWARDED**1. Deputy Director for  
Science and Technology  
Room 6E45, Headquarters

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FY comic relief:

From the latest London  
Bureau monthly report.

## WELLINGTON ON AUDITS

The Duke of Wellington wrote to the British Foreign Office in London in August 1812:

"Gentlemen:

While marching from Portugal to a position which commands the approach to Madrid and the French forces, my officers have been diligently complying with your requests which have been sent by His Majesty's ship from London to Lisbon and thence by dispatch rider to our headquarters.

We have enumerated our saddles, bridles, tents and tent poles, and all manner of sundry items for which His Majesty's Government holds me accountable. I have dispatched reports on the character, wit and spleen of every officer. Each item and every farthing has been accounted for, with two regrettable exceptions for which I beg your indulgence.

Unfortunately the sum of one shilling and ninepence remains unaccounted for in one infantry battalion's petty cash and there has been a hideous confusion as to the number of jars of raspberry jam issued to one cavalry regiment during a sandstorm in western Spain. This reprehensible carelessness may be related to the pressure of circumstance, since we are at war with France, a fact which may come as a bit of a surprise to you gentlemen in Whitehall.

This brings me to my present purpose, which is to request elucidation of my instructions from His Majesty's Government, so that I may better understand why I am dragging an army over these barren plains. I construe that perforce it must be one of the two alternative duties, as given below. I shall pursue either one with the best of my ability but I cannot do both:

1. To train an army of uniformed British clerks in Spain for the benefit of the accountants and copy-boys in London, or, perchance
2. To see to it that the forces of Napoleon are driven out of Spain.

Your most obedient servant,

WELLINGTON"